Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OPR-02 SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-02 AID-20 /117 W

----- 056600

R 181307Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 355

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: CHRYSLER MOTORS CANCELS AGENTS' MEETING SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN BEIRUT NEXT MONTH

- 1. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE REGIONAL CHRYSLER
 REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT THE ANNUAL WORLD-WIDE
 MEETING OF AGENTS (SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER) TAKE PLACE IN
 BEIRUT RATHER THAN IN LONDON AS WAS USUALLY THE CASE. HIS
 SUGGESTION WAS ACCEPTED AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR ABOUT 450
 PERSONS WERE MADE. A DECISION HAS NOW BEEN TAKEN, HOWEVER,
 TO CANCEL BEIRUT AS THE VENUE, FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS FROM
 NUMEROUS AGENTS THAT BEIRUT WAS NOT A SAFE PLACE TO MEET IN.
- 2. MOTIVATION IN CANCELLING PROPOSED MEETING REFLECTS THINKING CONTAINED IN SEPTEMBER 13 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE BY JONATHAN RANDALL, HIGHLIGHTING RECENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVENTS THAT REVEAL DICY SECURITY SITUATION HERE AS WELL AS

GENERAL POLITICAL INSTABILITY. THIS ARTICLE IS BEING USED AS FURTHER AMMUNITION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AND WHILE ITS OVERALL PERSPECTIVE MAY BE QUESTIONED AS BEING SOMEWHAT DISTORTED, INDIVIDUAL FACTUAL POINTS MADE ARE ON THE WHOLE DIFFICULT TO CONTEST.

3. CHRYSLER DECISION SO FAR IS ONLY INDICATION OF A TREND AGAINST THE PREVAILING ONE OF INCREASING FOREIGN BUSINESS PRESENCE HERE. GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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